

Library

ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the year

1 9 5 4.

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Town Hall,
ROYSTON,
Herts.

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Councillor H. G. Haddock,
Chairman of the Public Health Committee

Dr. V. R. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
District Medical Officer of Health

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1954 - 1955

COUNCILLORS:

A. L. CAIN, J.P., A.I.E.E.
Chairman of the Council.

F. J. DRAKE, A.I.E.E.
Vice-Chairman.

R. H. C. Clark, C.C.

Lady Newman

H. G. Haddock

P. F. Sewell

Mrs. E. A. King, J.P.

H. A. Stearn, J.P., M.P.S.

G. W. Langridge

W. A. Turner

Sir Cecil Newman, Bt., J.P.

R. L. Wilkerson

OFFICERS:

Dr. V. R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
District Medical Officer of Health.

S. M. JACKSON, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

S. P. WALTON, F.C.I.S.,
Clerk and Chief Financial Officer.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Royston Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 28/54, I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report of the year 1954.

During the year the local birth rate (17.4) was again above that for England and Wales, contributed partly by the presence in the District of a reception centre for homeless families.

The local death rate (13.9) was again above the National rate, but the application of the comparability factor (0.81) supplied gave a standardised death rate of 11.3. The somewhat high still birth rate was more than balanced by the favourable infant mortality rate.

There was again during the year a marked absence of serious infectious disease from the District.

I would acknowledge the assistance in the preparation of this Report from Mr. S. M. Jackson, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, who is responsible for the section on sanitary matters. Also I would like to thank your Council and its Chief Officers for every consideration during the year.

I am, ladies and gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

VICTOR R. WALKER.

May, 1955.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,626
Home Population - Registrar General's							
Estimate for mid-1954.	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,820
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1954							
(estimated)					...	...	1,486
Rateable Value (1st April, 1954.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£32,772
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£128.13s.2d.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for
the year 1954.

	<u>Totals</u>	M.	F.	Royston Urban District.	Comparable rates for England & Wales.
<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u> Legitimate	83	47	36		
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>		
Total	84	48	36		

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	17.4	15.2
--	------	------

	<u>Totals</u>	M.	F.
<u>STILLBIRTHS.</u> Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	3	1	2

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	34.5	24.0
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	<u>Totals</u>	M.	F.
<u>DEATHS</u>	67	39	28

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.9	11.3
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DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births	11.9	25.5
Rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	12.0	

Rate for illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	Nil
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Actual number of such deaths: (a)	Under 4 weeks	and	(b) Under <u>1 year</u>
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Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	0
Death from Cancer (all sites)	13
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0

Comment on Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year home population shows an increase of 48 on the figure for 1953. Live births (84) were 8 more, and local deaths (67) 5 more than for 1953.

SECTION B Provision of Health Services for the area.

No important change took place during the year.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The whole of the district, with the exception of 8 houses and a small light engineering works in the Eagle Tavern Area, and the Hall, Farm and Cottages on the Burloes Estate, is supplied with water from the chalk, by the Royston Water Company Ltd., by a piped supply of excellent quality. The houses at Burloes are supplied by a private piped supply, also of excellent quality.

The water supply situation in the Eagle Tavern Area was further investigated during the year, but it was not found possible to take any action in the provision of a piped supply. During a dry spell, water was carted to the cottages.

With the exception of the houses mentioned above, all the other houses in the district are supplied with water direct from the mains to the houses.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations were made during the year and analysis shows the water to be in a satisfactory chemical and bacteriological condition and suitable for drinking.

No serious shortage was experienced during the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Seventeen new houses built by private enterprise, and 3 new houses built by the Council were connected to the sewerage system during the year.

Approximately 817 yards of 9" diameter sewer was laid by the County Education Authority to serve the new Modern Secondary School in Garden Walk. This sewer was laid with a larger diameter pipe than was necessary solely for the school, to allow for the sewerage of Council and private development in the Garden Walk and Newmarket Road areas.

A small extension of the sewer in Melbourn Road was carried out.

405 yards of 9" diameter and 330 yards of 6" diameter sewer was laid on the Newmarket Road Housing Site.

Refuse Removal and Disposal

The cost of refuse removal for the year amounted to £2,075.

Maintenance of the refuse tip was continued and advantage was taken to seal the tipping area whenever covering material was available. Treatment by spraying with insecticide was carried out to prevent the breeding of flies.

Regular baiting and poisoning treatments against rat infestation was carried out during the year by the Rodent Operator of the Joint Scheme.

RODENT CONTROL

The operation of the Joint Pest Control Scheme with the Hitchin and Welwyn Rural District Councils showed that useful work was carried out, and in Royston the Rodent Operator's work covered the following:-

Total hours worked on treatments - 186 $\frac{1}{2}$

The time spent on the various types of premises were:-

Sewers 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours, Refuse Tips etc. 57 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours, Private dwellings 62 hours, Business premises 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours, Block Inspections 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours, Inspection of Agricultural land 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours.

The total number of inspections made during 1954 as a result of notification or otherwise was 424.

The scheme has worked smoothly, and I would like to record my appreciation of the work of the Senior Sanitary Inspector of the Hitchin Rural District Council, who has been in control of the scheme and acted as co-ordinating officer.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area

The details below show the number of inspections made during the year:-

Under the Housing Acts

48

Under the Public Health Acts	152
Under the Factory Acts	21
Prevention of Infectious Diseases	2
Milk and Dairies Orders	8
Food Shops and Stores	74
Bakehouse Inspections	6
Prevention of Nuisances	115
House Drainage	31
Supervision of Refuse Collection and Disposal	82
Rats and Mice Destruction	424
Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	43
Miscellaneous Inspections	86

Details resulting from the above inspections are as follows:-

Houses in Clearance Area demolished	4
Statutory Notices served	7
Informal Notices served	86
Notices complied with	89
Houses demolished (Sec. 11)	6
Undertakings given by owners under Sec. 11	-
Houses rendered fit as result of formal action	7
Houses rendered fit as result of informal action	92
House roofs renewed or repaired	19
House windows repaired	24
House chimneys repaired	8
House floors renewed or repaired	21
House ceilings renewed or repaired	15
House walls (external) repaired or plastered	26
House eaves gutters renewed or repaired	45
Internal wall plaster repaired	24
House drains relaid or repaired	104 yds.
Gullies fixed	7
Intercepting traps fixed	2
New sinks fixed	9
Sinks renewed or repaired	4
Sink waste pipes renewed or repaired	12
W.C. Roofs repaired	4
W.C. Pans renewed or repaired	10
W.C. Cisterns renewed or repaired	62
New baths fixed	4
Inspection chambers built	6
Inspection chambers repaired	2
New vent shafts fixed	3
New F.A.I. fixed	3
Water service pipes repaired	43
Dampness remedied	18
Yards paved or repaired	2

Cooking ranges renewed or repaired	15
Hot water systems renewed or repaired	1
Staircases repaired	7
Blocked drains cleared and cleansed	42
Accumulations of rubbish removed	18
Houses disinfected	4
Bakehouse floors cleansed	1
Dairies cleansed and linewashed	1
Bakehouse ceilings cleansed	1
Sanitary conveniences at factories repaired	3
Sanitary conveniences at factories cleansed	5
Sanitary conveniences provided at Building sites	2

Building Byelaws and Town and Country Planning.

Plans and Applications submitted	68
Plans and Applications approved	64
Plans and Applications disapproved	4
Approved for new houses	13
Approved for other buildings	35
Approved for change of user	7
Approved for advertisement signs	4
Approved for use of land	5
New houses completed:	
By local authority under Housing Acts	3
By Private Enterprise	17
Other buildings completed	30
Drains laid to above	985 yds.
Gullies laid to above	48
Connections to sewer	18
Vent shafts fixed	28
Inspection of Chambers built	42
Water closets fixed	32
Intercepting traps fixed	18
Baths fixed	34
Sinks fixed	36
Lavatory Basins fixed	42
Dustbins provided	24

SECTION D.

Housing

During the year, three new traditional brick houses were completed and occupied. These were all three bedroom type houses.

Seventeen new dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

At the end of the year, three family units of accommodation at Old Bank House were occupied in requisitioned property.

Clearance Areas.

Four houses in one Clearance area were demolished. This completed the clearance of all the areas on which Clearance Orders were operative.

Control of Civil Building.

In November, Defence Regulation 56A was revoked, and from the 10th of that month, all building and civil engineering work could be carried out without the need of a building licence.

During the period of licensing, six licences were issued to erect new dwelling houses.

Seventeen houses under licence were completed and occupied during the year.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

There are three milk producers in the district, two of whom are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

There are two retail purveyors of milk in the district.

Periodic inspections of farms and dairies were made during the year.

This Council's area became part of the Specified Areas Scheme during the year, which required that only milk of the Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised types should be offered for sale.

Two Dealer's Licences were issued in respect of the sale of designated milks and three Supplementary Licences were issued for the retailing of designated milks in the district from premises situated outside the Urban Area.

Meat.

No slaughtering of animals was carried on in the district.

Meat in butchers shops and fish in fishmongers, has been inspected and the following certified as unfit for human consumption:-

Pork	-	10 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Mutton	-	68 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
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Other Foods.

Meat and other food shops were visited and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption on examination and were surrendered and destroyed:-

Cooked Ham	-	12 lbs.
Ham (Gammon)	-	26 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Wheat	-	398 lbs.

Tinned and Packaged Food.

Pineapple	5	tins
Peaches	9	"
Cherries	12	"
Plums	10	"
Tomatoes	3	"
Apricots	15	"
Pears	6	"
Grapefruit	9	"
Jams	6	"
Loganberries	2	"
Damsons	2	"
Strawberries	3	"
Orange Juice	4	"
Peas	8	"
Beans	1	"
Jellied Veal	9	"
Irish Stew	4	"
Luncheon Meat	1	"
Corned Beef	55	"
Stewed Steak	3	"
Salmon	1	"
Pilchards	4	"
Crawfish	1	"
Soups	2	"
Condensed Milk	1	"
Evaporated Milk	5	"
Sardines	52	"
Ham Loaf	1	"
Minced Chicken	6	"
Barley Crystals	7	"

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No intimation of any occurrence of food poisoning was received during the year.

Green Plunge Swimming Pool.

Samples of water were taken from the above and the results of analysis showed the water in the pool to be suitable for bathing purposes, throughout the season during which the pool was open.

Factories Act, 1937.

The following table gives the information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in accordance with Form 572 (Revised).

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	Number of			
	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
I. Factories in which Secs.1,2,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	12	-	-
II. Factories not included in (I) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	29	27	-	-
III. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excl. outworkers).	2	2	-	-
Total	40	41	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of prosecutions
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	5	5	-	-	-
Overcrowding	Nil	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp.	Nil	-	-	-	-
Inadequate vent.	Nil	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	Nil	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	Nil	-	-	-	-
Total	8	8	-	-	-

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and control over, infectious and other diseases.

Apart from six cases of Whooping Cough in the first quarter, no other acute infectious diseases were notified during the year.

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TUBERCULOSIS.New Cases and Deaths during the Year, 1954.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1 (1)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
& over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2 (1)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths allocated by Registrar General after final transfers					-	-	-	-

Foot note: Figures of new cases include inward transfers from other areas, the numbers of such being shown additionally in brackets.

New notification of Tuberculosis was confined to two cases of respiratory disease, both in the 25-44 age group (1 male and 1 female); no deaths from tuberculoses are recorded during the year.

VICTOR R. WALKER.

District Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1955.

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